

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or to reasonably suggest:

an acoustic device comprising: a plurality of sound sources; a first output unit comprising front speaker; a first operation unit capable of turning on a power supply to the acoustic device; a second output unit for outputting sound based on sound signals from the sound sources; a second operation unit or external connection unit which is also capable of turning on a power supply to the acoustic device; a mode setting unit setting one of a first or second mode, wherein the first mode is defined by sound signals from one of the sound sources being output from the first output unit, and the second mode is defined by sound signals from one of the sound sources being output from the first output unit; a control unit for controlling the mode setting wherein the mode setting unit sets the first mode or the second mode when power supply to the acoustic device is turned on by the first operation unit and *specifically wherein the mode setting unit sets the second mode and controls the front speakers of the first output unit to be in a muted state when power supply to the acoustic device is turned on by the second operation unit /electronic device.*

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2627

Vilkinofsky (US 6,870,935) teaches a volume control system wherein output from a first sound source decreases in the rear speaker output unit when switching from a single source mode to a dual source mode,

Yabe (US 2002/0076066) teaches an acoustic apparatus in a vehicle wherein output from an external device, such as a GPS, to the front speaker output, causes an attenuation of a first sound source to the front speaker output, thereby permitting the output from the external device to be heard more clearly through the front speaker unit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DIONNE H. PENDLETON whose telephone number is (571)272-7497. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:30-7:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dionne H Pendleton/
Examiner, Art Unit 2627

/Wayne Young/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2627